

PIKE COUNTY PATHFINDER

February 2022



CLS PROGRAM PUTS THE “COMMUNITY” IN COMMUNITY LIVING SKILLS

If there is one thing that participants in PCADD’s Community Living Skills (CLS) program do on a regular basis, it is participating in all of the many events and activities available in our community. When CLS program participants are not involved in doing volunteer work at community sites, having music therapy or pet therapy, cooking, doing arts and crafts, exercising, or just chillin’, they are out and about having fun and living life to the fullest.

Here is just a small picture sampling of some of the things that CLS participants do on a regular basis...



HALLOWEEN DANCE SCARES AWAY THE COVID BLUES

After a year off due to the pandemic, the PCADD Community Inclusion program once again hosted a Halloween dance for area persons with developmental disabilities on October 26th at the Pike County Fairgrounds building. If the strong attendance was any indication, people were ready to have a good time again in an atmosphere of friendship and fun after a year of isolating and quarantining. This year's event also had a costume contest, and determining the winners was not an easy decision for the judges. Plans are underway by the Community Inclusion program for a spring dance in March or April of 2022, so stay tuned!



Above: Jerry and Brooke have fun at the annual Halloween dance Oct. 26

RESOURCE OF THE QUARTER: MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

A big part of what we do in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) is to enable persons served to have more control over their day to day lives and become less dependent on others to



navigate everyday life, whether this be at home, at work, or in the community. This can take many forms, such as teaching activities of daily living, teaching social skills, and teaching vocational skills needed to succeed at work.

For many persons served with IDD, though, technology can sometimes provide an effective pathway to greater independence. The mission of the Missouri Assistive Technology Program is to increase access to assistive technology for Missourians with all types of disabilities and of all ages. Programs offered include a device loan program, an assistive technology recycling and reuse program, a telecommunications access program, a financial loan program to purchase assistive technology, and a kids assistive technology program. The Missouri Assistive Technology program also sponsors the annual Power Up Conference, scheduled in 2022 for April 4-5 in Blue Springs

MO. For more information about the Missouri Assistive Technology program, check out their website at: <https://at.mo.gov>.

THANK YOU TO LOCAL CHURCHES & ORGANIZATIONS

During the height of the pandemic in 2020, PCADD made an effort to have no more than 10 persons in any one location to help with social distancing to allow for the health and safety of those we serve and to comply with state and federal COVID guidance. With the assistance of a few local churches and organizations, PCADD was able to continue operations while maintaining these precautions. Thanks specifically go out to the Bowling Green Presbyterian Church, the Bowling Green Church of the Nazarene, Bowling Green Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and the Pike County Fair Board for allowing PCADD the temporary use of their facilities to allow for better social distancing of persons served with developmental disabilities.



SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS: CHRISTINE GUERTZGEN

It takes a while for Christine Guertzgen to open up to people she doesn't know very well. According to one of her support staff Michelle, she is initially quiet, but once she gets to know you, "she's not so quiet".

Christine is a very active person, and enjoys doing things such as exercising to music, dancing, bowling, using the Wii, doing arts and crafts, shopping, swinging and singing while listening to music with her headphones, playing Yahtzee, and hanging out with her BFFs at CLS, Katy and Amber.

Christine is employed part time at Champ Clark Service Coordination (CCSC), working at their new offices each Friday. Christine likes having the spending money she gets from working at CCSC, and uses it for one of her favorite activities, which is shopping. Christine has also worked in a volunteer capacity at St. Clement Catholic Church in St. Clement.

About the only thing that has slowed Christine down recently is a little thing called open heart surgery which she had last August, and even with this, it didn't slow her down much! She is still working to get back to her activity level before her surgery, but her recuperation is going much faster than expected. Christine is currently



Above: Christine with some of her support staff at CLS- Lisa, Heather, and Michelle.

Christine is most proud of is being named the prom queen at the 2016 Louisiana High School prom. In a fine example of acceptance and inclusion, Christine was nominated by and voted prom queen by her peers at Louisiana High School in 2016.

Christine is a success not just because of her past accomplishments and overcoming past health challenges, but also because of the relationships she has developed with others, which are enriching, healthy, and varied.

Way to go Christine!



getting rehab to build her strength back up, and this is going well.

Ironically, one of the things she likes to do most is getting the heart rate of others up, such as her support staff Lisa; Christine is very skilled at stealthily coming up behind Lisa and scaring her by growling!

Michelle says that Christine is your basic "girly girl"; she enjoys getting "mani-pedis" and having her hair done every Tuesday at

Trina's in Louisiana MO.

One of the things that

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH IS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH!

MO DIVISION OF DD VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY SUMMITS:

February 3, 17, 24 Link for more info:

<https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/technology-first/2022-virtual-summit>

ANNUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY DAY AT STATE CAPITOL

March 9 2022
Jefferson City MO

POWER UP ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

April 4-5 2022 Adams Pointe Conference Center
Blue Springs MO

Call 324-5493 for more info. on any of these events.